

Greeks in Anatolia and Thrace.

In eastern Asia Minor Mustafa Kemal assumed leadership of what became known as the "Nationalist Movement". In 1919 this movement was weak and divided. In their plans for an Ottoman peace treaty Allied leaders took little account of the emergence of a Nationalist movement. After the withdrawal of the USA, and the desire of other powers to restrict Italy led to a decision that there should be no mandates in Anatolia but only spheres of influence. Greece was given extensive territories including the whole Thrace and Izmir. The occupation of Istanbul on 16 March 1920 was a crucial event in the post-war history of the Near East because it ended the possibility that some compromise might have been found between the different political forces in Turkey. Because in the spring of 1920 the Nationalists were in a critical position, they had appealed to Soviet Russia for assistance.

By the end of that year Mustafa Kemal won the civil war and in March 1921 an Alliance between Soviet Russia and the Nationalists was concluded. This Alliance caused much concern in Britain, where it was seen as an alliance of Bolshevism and Panislamism which could menace British interests throughout the East. The Indian government and the War Office favoured an attempt to win over the Nationalists and create in Islam a solid barrier to Bolshevism in the East. However, winning over the Nationalists required the abandonment of the Treaty of Sèvres. On the other hand, an Anglo-Russian agreement, it was thought, would leave the Nationalists isolated and make possible their defeat and the confirmation of the Sèvres settlement. France and Italy were also seeking a political solution to their difficulties. They had disliked the Greeks and had been willing to make an agreement with the Nationalists. The Greek collapse in the summer of 1922 changed the whole situation.

The author has mobilized his deep knowledge of both Western and Eastern diplomatic sources to assess the significance of the Atatürk revolution and provide an essential background for the formation of judgments about contemporary Turkey's problems and prospects. The book is very clear and very useful because it helps to get away from the stereotypes and to find reality. It is supported by a thorough glossary and a big number of maps and photographs. Professor Jan Wanner tackles the often difficult issues in this period head on and with refreshing honesty. He has a neat way of gently undermining settled issues that makes it a very good text with which to work. The book will appeal to anyone interested in the history of the Middle East and will undoubtedly be of help to students and to non-specialists alike.

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BERTONCINI ZÚBKOVÁ, Elena – GROMOV, Mikhail D. – KHAMIS, Said A.M. – WAMITILA, Kyallo Wadi: *Outline of Swahili Literature. Prose Fiction and Drama*. Second Edition, Extensively Revised and Enlarged. Leiden–Boston, Brill 2009. 500 pp. ISBN 978-90-04- 16818-3.

The book under review *Outline of Swahili Literature. Prose Fiction and Drama* is an extensively revised and enlarged edition of the study written by Elena Bertoncini Zúbková, Professor of Swahili Language and Literature at the University of Naples

Istituto Universitario Orientale, and first published in 1989. The second edition of the widely acclaimed study and reference guide to modern prose and drama in Swahili – one of the largest languages of sub-Saharan Africa was written jointly by E. Bertoncini, M. Gromov, S. Khamis and K.W. Watimila and contains a lot of new and updated information. Special attention is given to the developments in Swahili literature that took place in the late 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, mapping new trends and writers.

The aim of this outline of modern Swahili literature as expressed in the Preface written by E. Bertoncini is “to present a coherent picture of the development within Swahili literature of two foreign genres, namely prose fiction and drama, implanted with greater or lesser success onto local traditions”. While Swahili poetry has a long literary tradition, prose has had little to build upon, and the study attempts to trace the development of Swahili prose fiction and drama from their beginnings in oral traditions to their contemporary expressions in the writings of authors from Kenya, the Tanzanian mainland (formerly Tanganyika) and Zanzibar.

The study is divided into three chapters of unequal length and an introduction written jointly by E. Bertoncini Zúbková and M.D. Gromov, attempting to summarise important developments that took place in the world of Swahili literatures and distinguish regional differences. Chapter One provides a short survey of Prose Fiction in Pre-Colonial and Colonial Times, paying special attention to oral literature, to traditional Swahili forms in the field of prose – tales, chronicles, memoirs and autobiographies, the connection between oral and written forms in Swahili literature, and to a rise of a new prose tradition in Swahili. This chapter also includes a discussion of the role of the traditional artist and of the life and work of Shaaban Robert, one of the greatest Swahili thinkers and most prolific Swahili writers. However, the basis of Outline of Swahili Literature lies in the following two chapters: Chapter Two: Contemporary Prose Fiction and Chapter Three: Drama, tracing the expression and controversies of contemporary prose fiction and drama respectively. Each of them is subdivided regionally – Kenya, the Tanzanian mainland and Zanzibar and chronologically – From the 1960s to the 1980s and From the 1990s to the Present. While this part of the book is basically descriptive, there are numerous points at which analytical statements are made. A student of modern Swahili literature will no doubt appreciate evaluations and analyses of selected Swahili writers being made so readily available, along with synopses of plots and themes of the major works, novels, short stories and plays. Among the book’s most welcome contributions are a bio-bibliographical list of contemporary Swahili authors of novels, short stories and plays (Appendix One), containing all the available biographical information, and an annotated bibliography of all known works in Swahili modern prose and drama, novels, collections of short stories and plays published from the late 1950s up to 2008 (Appendix Two).

The Bibliography and Appendices make this book a unique source and the most up-to-date study in the field, bringing together a wealth of information. As I put down in my review of the first edition, the book is a valuable contribution to the study of Swahili literature in its own right, but it is also a very creative incentive for further research in this area.

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